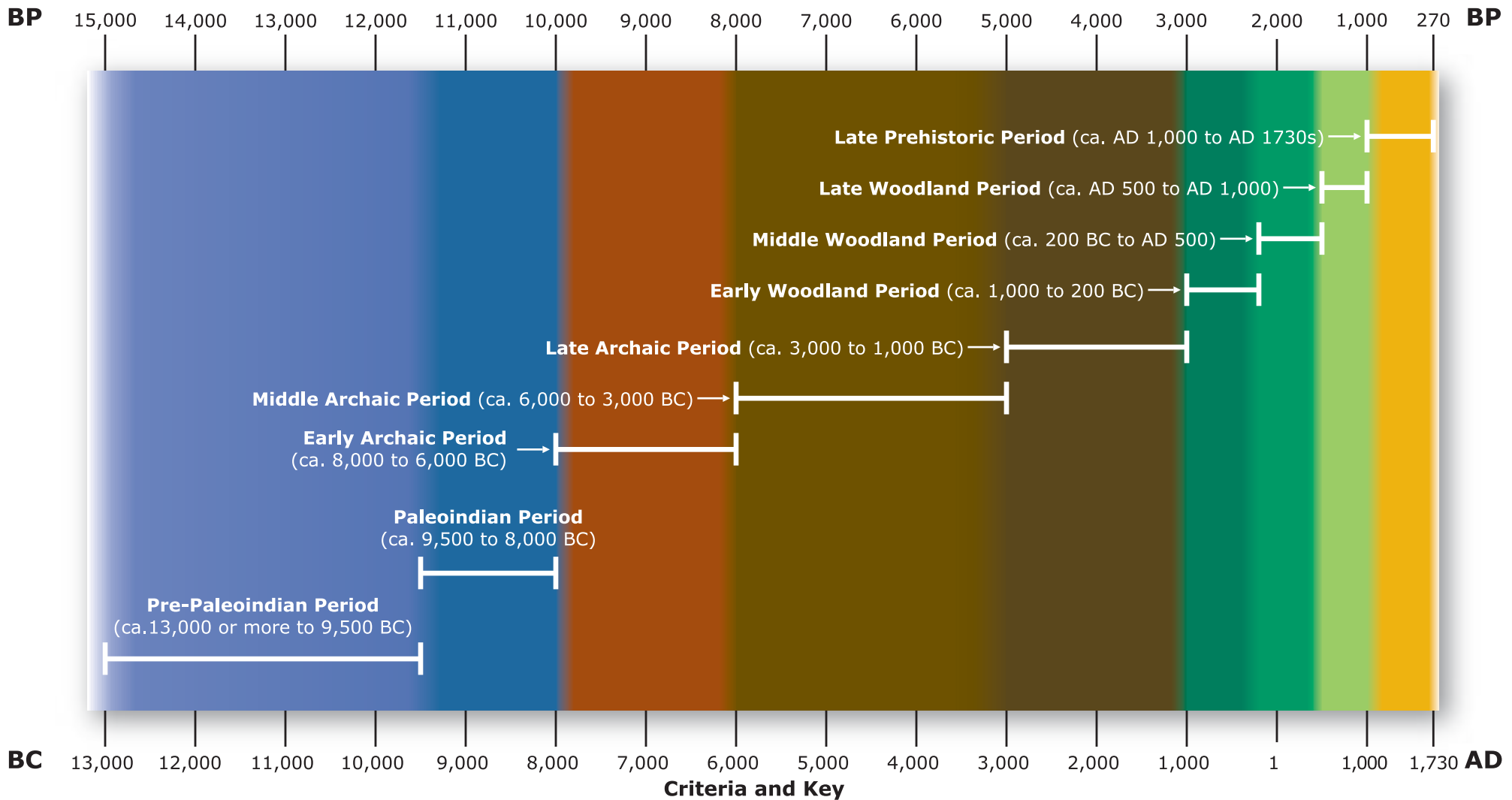


# Kentucky Archaeology Timeline

## Prehistoric Era



This proportional timeline is based on published radiocarbon dates and artifact typologies. The terms and dates are generally accepted within Kentucky's professional archaeological community as of the date of publication. This timeline shows two sets of chronological time: BP (Radiocarbon Years Before Present) is commonly used by archaeologists; BC/AD is commonly used in educational curricula for Kentucky and the U.S.

The prehistoric dates are listed as ca. (about) to reflect overlapping regional differences in ancient American Indian cultures. The start and end dates of each prehistoric period are rounded to the closest century or decade. In most instances, the timeline reflects the broadest or most inclusive dates for a specific era or period.

Prehistoric era start date: There is considerable archaeological debate as to the first scientific evidence of American Indian occupation in the lands we now call Kentucky. The date 15,000 BP/13,000 BC (or more) reflects archaeological evidence from the Enoch Fork site in Perry County. However, archaeologists have secured older radiocarbon dates from American Indian sites in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.